

Message Text

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FOR HODDING CARTER FROM S/PRS

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TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT: TRAVELLING PRESS SUMMARY, SATURDAY DECEMBER 10

NO. 14

WIRES

UPI -- JIM ANDERSON FROM CAIRO

LEAD: "SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE AND PRESIDENT ANWAR
SADAT TODAY PLEDGED TO SEEK A COMPREHENSIVE MIDDLE EAST
SETTLEMENT IN AN APPARENT BID TO GET ANGRY ARAB HARDLINERS
TO SWING BEHIND THE EGYPTIAN LEADER'S MOVE FOR PEACE WITH
ISRAEL."

OTHER POINTS:

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-- VANCE STRONGLY SUPPORTED SADAT IN HIS BID TO GET ARAB
MILITANTS TO BACK SADAT'S MOVE ON PEACE WITH ISRAEL. "THE
CAIRO (PRE-GENEVA MEETING PEACE) MEETING (DEC. 14) IS A
STEP ON THE WAY ... TO AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT."

-- BOTH MEN STATED CLEARLY AT A JOINT NEWS CONFERENCE
FOLLOWING MORE THAN TWO HOURS OF TALKS THAT THEIR GOVERN-
MENTS DO NOT WANT A SEPARATE EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI PEACE.
SADAT ALSO SAID THAT THEY HAD AGREED IN PRINCIPLE THE
CAIRO TALKS SET TO BEGIN WEDNESDAY SHOULD BE UPGRADED TO

MINISTERIAL LEVEL IF POSSIBLE.

-- SADAT SAID, DESPITE VOWS FROM SYRIA AND THE PLO TO BOYCOTT NEXT WEEK'S PEACE TALKS IN CAIRO, "THE DISCUSSION IS OPEN ... WE HAVE ARRANGED PLACES FOR THEM AND WHENEVER THEY COME THEY WILL BE WELCOME."

-- VANCE WAS FLYING TO ISRAEL LATER TODAY AND THEN VISITING LEBANON, SYRIA, AND SAUDI ARABIA ON A WEEK-LONG SWING.

-- THE SECRETARY DISCLOSED ONE OF THE POINTS HE WILL MAKE WHEN HE VISITS DAMASCUS AND OTHER ARAB CAPITALS: IF SYRIA AND JORDAN JOIN THE CAIRO CONFERENCE, THEIR PRESENCE SHOULD GUARANTEE THAT EGYPT AND ISRAEL WILL NOT CONCLUDE A SEPARATE AGREEMENT FREEZING THEM OUT OF NEGOTIATIONS.

AP -- BARRY SCHWEID FROM CAIRO

LEAD: SECSTATE VANCE MET WITH PRESIDENT ANWAR SADAT TODAY AND SAID AFTERWARD THE UNITED STATES WILL DO ALL IT CAN TO SUPPORT SADAT'S CAIRO PEACE CONFERENCE AS A STEP TOWARD AN OVER-ALL MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT AT GENEVA."
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OTHER POINTS:

-- AT A NEWS CONFERENCE AFTER MEETING WITH SADAT, VANCE PRAISED THE EGYPTIAN'S PEACE OVERTOURE TO ISRAEL AND SAID "WE IN THE UNITED STATES SHALL DO EVERYTHING IN OUR POWER TO MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM, OUR OBJECTIVE REMAINS A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT."

-- VANCE CAUTIONED AFTER THE SADAT MEETING THAT "THERE IS A GREAT DEAL OF WORK TO BE DONE TO PAVE THE WAY" TO RECONVENING THE GENEVA CONFERENCE WITH ALL THE PARTIES TO THE MIDEAST CONFLICT.

-- AS VANCE CONTINUES HIS MIDEAST TRIP, HE FACES A TOUGH TEST MONDAY IN TALKS WITH SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASSAD, SADAT'S MOST OUTSPOKEN CRITIC AMONG THE FOUR ARAB LEADERS SURROUNDING ISRAEL. DIPLOMATIC SOURCES PREDICT VANCE HAS LITTLE CHANCE OF PERSUADING SYRIA TO ATTEND THE CAIRO TALKS.

REUTERS -- ROY GUTMAN

LEAD: "SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE TODAY DISCUSSED WITH PRESIDENT ANWAR SADAT THE EGYPTIAN LEADER'S BOLD PEACE

INITIATIVES THAT CHANGED THE MIDDLE EAST POLITICAL LANDSCAPE AND FORCED A RE-EXAMINATION OF US POLICY."

OTHER POINTS:

-- IN A SIX DAY SWING THROUGH FIVE ARAB COUNTRIES AND ISAREL MR. VANCE HOPES TO 'DEMONSTRATE US SUPPORT FOR THE CAIRO PRELIMINARY PEACE TALKS.

-- FORMERLY COMMITTED TO RECONVENING THE GENEVA TALKS THE -ARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS ANNOUNCED IT IS NOW FOCUSSED UNCLASSIFIED

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ALL OF ITS ATTENTION ON THE CAIRO MEETING. THIS HAS RESULTED IN SOVIET CHARGES THAT THE US ABANDONED THE JOINT MIDDLE EAST DECLARATION OF OCTOBER 1 WHICH CALLED FOR RECONVENING THE GENEVA TALKS THIS YEAR.

-- THE VANCE TOUR IS IN PART A LOBBYING EFFORT, "IN PART RECONNAISSANCE TO DETERMINE HOW TO PROMOTE THE PEACE PROCESS AND MINIMIZE THE DAMAGES" US OFFICIALS SAID.

-- VANCE IS ESPECIALLY EAGER TO GAIN AT LEAST TACIT SYRIAN SUPPORT FOR THE SADAT MOVES IN THE HOPE THAT SYRIA WOULD JOIN THE TALKS AT A LATER STATE.

-- AT HIS BRUSSELS NEWS CONFERENCE MR. VANCE SAID THE SOVIET UNION INDICATED IT WOULD NOT SUPPORT THE CAIRO CONFERENCE IN ANY WAY. RESPONDING TO SOVIET CHARGES THAT THE US HAD ABANDONED THE GENEVA FRAMEWORK HE SAID THE CAIRO MEETING DID NOT PRECLUDE A GENEVA CONFERENCE.

NEWSPAPERS

WASHINGTON POST -- RONALD KOVEN AND THOMAS W. LIPPMAN FROM CAIRO, WITH MICHAEL GETTLER

LEAD: "SECSTATE VANCE, ARRIVED IN EGYPT TONIGHT AT THE START OF A TOUR INTENDED TO REASSERT WASHINGTON'S ROLE IN THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE MAKING PROCESS."

OTHER POINTS:

-- VANCE TOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE IN BRUSSELS THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS ADAMANTLY OPPOSED TO SADAT'S INITIATIVE THAT MOSCOW STILL SUPPORTS COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED UNCLASSIFIED

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STATES TOWARDS A COMPREHENSIVE MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT.

-- HIS REMARKS FOLLOWED A PRIVATE REPORT TO HIM BY UNDERSECRETARY PHILIP HABIB WHO HAD JUST ENDED A TWO DAY VISIT TO MOSCOW IN AN EFFORT TO CONVINCE THE SOVIETS NOT

TO COMPLETELY DISMISS THE CAIRO CONFERENCE.

-- VANCE REJECTED SOVIET NEWS AGENCY REPORTS THAT US SUPPORT OF SADAT'S INITIATIVE WAS CONTRADICTORY TO AN EARLIER JOINT US-SOVIET DECLARATION THAT PLEDGED EFFORTS TOWARD RECONVENING THE GENEVA CONFERENCE.

-- THE SOVIET UNION HAS DECLINED AN INVITATION TO THE CAIRO CONFERENCE, SO HAVE ALL THE ARAB STATES SADAT ASKED TO ATTEND, SYRIA, JORDAN, LEBANON, AS WELL AS THE PLO.

-- BETWEEN NOW AND THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING HERE, VANCE IS GOING TO BE TOURING THE REGION TRYING TO GET OTHER AREA LEADERS TO KEEP AN OPEN MIND ABOUT SADAT'S INITIATIVE EVEN IF THEY CANNOT SUPPORT IT.

-- DIFFICULTIES ARE ILLUSTRATED BY JORDAN'S KING HUSSEIN'S COMPLETED VISIT HERE THIS MORNING (DEC.9). HE SAID HE IS SYMPATHETIC TO SADAT BUT ALSO HAS CLOSE TIES TO SYRIA AND REFUSED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CAIRO MEETINGS UNLESS OTHER ARABS DO. HE LEFT WITHOUT ISSUING ANY STATEMENT AND A SECOND SCHEDULED MEETING BETWEEN THE TWO LEADERS DID NOT TAKE PLACE.

-- THE AMERICANS SAY THEY WILL LOOK FOR SUGGESTIONS OF SUPPORT FOR THE CAIRO CONFERENCE OF THE SECRETARY'S FORTHCOMING STOPS.

-- THE AMERICANS ARE TOUCHING BASES WITH ALL THE PARTIES DIRECTLY CONCERNED EXCEPT THE PALESTINIANS.

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-- IT IS CLEAR THAT THESE ARE CONSULTATIONS AND THAT VANCE IS NOT BRINGING ANY SUBSTANTIVE PROPOSALS TO ANY OF THESE NATIONS.

NEW YORK TIMES -- BERNARD GWERTZMAN FROM CAIRO

LEAD: "SECSTATE CYRUS VANCE ARRIVED TONIGHT AT THE START OF A SIX-DAY MISSION TO THE MIDDLE EAST AND SAID THE UNITED STATES WANTED 'TO DO EVERYTHING' IT COULD TO MAINTAIN THE DIPLOMATIC MOTION BEGUN BY PRESIDENT ANWAR EL-SADAT OF EGYPT."

OTHER POINTS:

-- ON ARRIVAL MR. VANCE SAID THAT SADAT HAS THE ADMIRATION AND RESPECT OF ALL THE AMERICAN PEOPLE FOR MOMENTUM HE HAS GIVEN TO PEACE PROCESS.

-- VANCE IS TO FLY TO ISRAEL AND IN SUBSEQUENT DAYS TO

JORDAN, LEBANON, SYRIA, AND SAUDI ARABIA TO SEEK SUPPORT
OF THE EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI PEACE EFFORTS.

-- EIGHT HOURS BEFORE VANCE'S ARRIVAL IN CAIRO, KING
HUSSEIN FLEW HOME TO JORDON ENDING AN ARAB CONCILIATORY
MISSION THAT HAD BEGUN HERE YESTERDAY (DEC. 8). HE
CANCELLED SCHEDULED VISIT TO RIYADH FOR TALKS WITH SAUDI
RULERS WITHOUT EXPLANATION.

-- PRESIDENT ASSAD OF SYRIA WHO IS TOURING ARAB OIL
COUNTRIES IN AN ANTI-EGYPTIAN CAMPAIGN ENDED HIS VISIT
TO SAUDI ARABIA AND FLEW TO KUWAIT.

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-- AMERICAN OFFICIALS SAID MR. VANCE'S TRIP HAD TWO MAJOR
PURPOSES: TO DISCUSS WITH EGYPT AND ISRAEL THE NEED FOR
INSURING THAT THE CAIRO MEETING MAKES PROGRESS TOWARD AN
OVERALL SETTLEMENT SO THAT JORDAN AND SYRIA COULD
SUBSEQUENTLY ENTER THE NEGOTIATIONS; AND TO PERSUADE THOSE
STAYING AWAY FROM THE CAIRO MEETING THAT THE US AS CO-
CHAIRMAN OF GENEVA CONFERENCE WOULD DO ALL IN ITS POWER
TO MAKE THE EGYPT-ISRAELI DIALOGUE INTO A LARGER FORUM.

-- AS RESULT OF UNDERSECRETARY HABIB'S REPORT ON HIS
VISIT TO MOSCOW, MR. VANCE SAID THAT "MY JUDGMENT IS THAT
THE SOVIET UNION WISHES TO SEE A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT
REACHED IN THE MIDDLE EAST, THAT THEIR OBJECTIVE REMAINS
A GENEVA CONFERENCE...THOSE OBJECTIVES ARE SHARED, I
BELIEVE, BY ALL OF THE PARTIES. THE SOVIET UNION AND
OURSELVES DO NOT AGREE WITH RESPECT TO ... THE CAIRO
CONFERENCE. OUR POSITION IS WELL-KNOWN. "WE BELIEVE THIS
IS AN IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD."

--VANCE HOPES THAT THE AMERICAN DELEGATION AT THE CAIRO
MEETING, HEADED BY ALFRED L. ATHERTON, JR. CAN HELP BRING
ABOUT A FRAMEWORK OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT
PROVIDING THE PRINCIPLES FOR AN OVERALL ACCORD
ACCEPTABLE TO JORDAN AND SYRIA.

BALTIMORE SUN -- MICHAEL PARKS, STAFF CORRESPONDENT IN
JERUSALEM

LEAD: "ISRAEL AND EGYPT ARE PREPARING FOR FAR-REACHING
SECRET TALKS AWAY FROM THE CAIRO CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS
THE BASIC TERMS FOR A MIDDLE EAST PEACE, HIGHLY PLACED
SOURCES HERE AND IN CAIRO SAID YESTERDAY."

OTHER POINTS:

-- BOTH COUNTRIES WANT TO NEGOTIATE FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES

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BETWEEN THEM AT A HIGHER, POSSIBLY MINISTERIAL LEVEL, AWAY FROM THE INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION OF THE CAIRO TALKS AND WITHOUT DIRECT AMERICAN PARTICIPATION. BASIC ACCORDS HOPED FOR AT THE SECRET TALKS ABOUT ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND PALESTINIAN SELF-DETERMINATION, WOULD BE BROUGHT BACK TO CAIRO FORUM FOR ELABORATION. EVENTUALLY TO BE BROUGHT TO GENEVA CONFERENCE WHEN IT IS RECONVENED. CHRISTOPHER

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